

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a negative electrode by applying a paste onto a substrate, wherein said paste contains hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder and a catalytic metal compound which is soluble in an electrolyte and selected from the group consisting of a catalytic metal fluoride, a catalytic metal chloride, a catalytic metal iodide, and a catalytic cobalt metal sulfide and/or a catalytic nickel sulfide, in the proportion of 0.1 to 2.5 wt% based on the weight of said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder; and

a second step of placing said negative electrode and a positive electrode into a cell can with disposing a separator therebetween, and thereafter pouring an electrolyte into said cell can.

10. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a negative electrode by applying a paste containing a hydrogen absorbing alloy powder onto a substrate; and

a second step of placing said negative electrode and a positive electrode into a cell can with disposing a separator therebetween, and thereafter pouring an electrolyte into said cell can, wherein said electrolyte contains a catalytic metal compound which is soluble in said electrolyte

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Attorney Docket No. 981032B

Serial No. 10/786,091

and selected from the group consisting of a catalytic metal fluoride, a catalytic metal chloride, a catalytic metal iodide, and a catalytic cobalt metal sulfide and/or a catalytic nickel sulfide, in the proportion of 0.1 to 2.5 wt% based on the weight of said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9-~~or~~ 10 wherein said catalytic metal compound is said catalytic metal fluoride and is at least one catalytic metal fluoride selected from the group consisting of a cobalt fluoride, a nickel fluoride, an aluminum fluoride, and a copper fluoride.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9-~~or~~ 10 wherein said catalytic metal compound is catalytic metal fluoride and said catalytic metal fluoride is CoF_2 and/or NiF_2 .

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9-~~or~~ 10 wherein said catalytic metal compound is catalytic metal chloride and said catalytic metal chloride is a cobalt chloride and/or a nickel chloride.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9-~~or~~ 10 wherein said catalytic metal compound is catalytic metal iodide and said catalytic metal iodide is a cobalt iodide and/or a nickel iodide.

15. (cancelled):

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Attorney Docket No. 981032B

Serial No. 10/786,091

16. (currently amended): The method of claim 9-~~or~~ 10 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is selected from the group consisting of rare-earth element hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Fe based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, and Mg-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

17. (currently amended): The method of claim 9-~~or~~ 10 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder comprises hydrogen-absorbing alloy having a CaCu₅ type crystal structure expressed by the general formula MmNi_aCo_bAl_cMn_d, where a>0, B b>0, c>0, d≥0, and $4.4 \leq a + b + c + d \leq 5.4$.